

January 8, 1996

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. As I listen to this discussion, I didn't like this rule change to start with when I looked at it over the weekend and tried to figure out what was going on. And so as I listened to Senator Withem answering questions, I have even more apprehensions about it. I understand what you're trying to do, Senator Withem. But one of the things that Senator Chambers, I think it was, said that issues come up during a hearing on a bill. And so maybe someone in the committee, after they're...when they're in Executive Session and trying to decide whether to move a bill out of committee, then they say, well, this issue came up, so I think maybe we ought to take everything out of this and put this one issue in, because this is more important. Well, what really worries me and concerns me is that an issue could just come up within the committee, and the committee decides this is a really important issue that has to be discussed on the floor, or that maybe needs to be changed, but there is never any hearing on that issue. The public is being shut out of the hearing process. And I think you have to be really careful of committees just being able to, in a wholesale way, put whatever they want to in a bill and bring it to the floor as committee amendments. And I understand how Senator Wesely is very adroit at it in the Health Committee. And quite often that's a good idea, because there are changes in regulations and so on that need...the statutes need to be brought into sync and so on, and that's fine. But I'm not going to vote for this rule change because I just am very apprehensive about the fact that we are coming close to shutting out the public. And what we're trying to do, I understand you're trying to get rid of some of these arguments on the floor about whether it's germane and so on. That's what we're here for, that's what we're here for, to be really sure that all of those things are germane, and that we do things correctly and well before the end of the session. I'm a little surprised that Senator Chambers thinks this is a good idea. But be that as it may, I will not support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Kristensen, your light is next, followed by Senators Chambers